

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 240337 TOSEC 100128  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 CCO-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:SHAMRICK:AB  
APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON  
S/S:BSCHRAGE  
AF/E:RPOST  
S/S-O :RPERITO  
S/P:HWARD

-----076950 060135Z /21

O R 060049Z OCT 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T STATE 240337 TOSEC 100128

S/S-S FOR BOB PACE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS::ASS, US, SO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: SOMALIA

1. AMBASSADOR ADDOU, THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO THE US, INFORMED US ON OCTOBER 5 THAT SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ABDURAHMAN BARRE INTENDS TO MAKE A PROPOSAL OF "THE GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE" DURING HIS TALKS WITH YOU IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 6. WHILE HE REFUSED TO DISCLOSE THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL, HE SAID THAT IT CONCERNED US/SOMALI AND SOMALI/ SOVIET RELATIONS. HE ADMITTED FURTHER THAT THE SOMALI PROPOSAL WOULD BE PRESIDENT SIAD'S RESPONSE TO SOVIET PRESSURES TO BRING AN END TO SOMALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WARFARE IN THE OGADEN.

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2. WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ABDURAHMAN WILL INFORM YOU THAT SOMALIA IS PREPARED TO TERMINATE ITS MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN EXCHANGE FOR ASSURANCES OF US MILITARY SUPPORT, PRINCIPALLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONRY.

2. HIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO PERSUADE US THAT THE TERMINATION OF SOMALIA'S MILITARY TIES TO MOSCOW IS IN US INTEREST AND THAT US DEFENSIVE SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE DANGERS OF A SOVIET HEGEMONY IN THE HORN

OF AFRICA TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE WEST AND THE ARAB WORLD.

3. SOMALIA HAS AT PRESENT NO RELIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ITS DEPENDENCE UPON SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY TANKS AND PLANES. WITHOUT A DEPENDABLE SOURCE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SIAD IS LIMITED IN HIS ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF). HE IS ALSO LIMITED IN HIS ABILITY TO END HIS COLLABORATION WITH THE USSR AND THUS BECOMES MORE VULNERABLE TO SOVIET POESSURES SEEKING THE WITHDRAWAL OF REGULAR SOMALI MILITARY UNITS IN THE OGADEN.

4. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

-- THE US COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO HELP SOMALIA MEET ITS DEFENSIVE ARMS NEEDS WAS MADE PRIOR TO THE ERUPTION OF WARFARE IN THE OGADEN. WE REGRET, HOWEVER, THAT WE CANNOT PROVIDE ARMS TO EITHER SIDE SO LONG AS THE OGADEN WAR CONTINUES, SINCE ADDITIONAL WEAPONS CAN ONLY REINFORCE THE WILL OF BOTH PARTICIPANTS TO SEEK A MILITARY SOLUTION AND TO PROLONG THE WAR.

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-- ONCE THE OGADEN PROBLEM IS RESOLVED, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER HOW WE CAN HELP ASSIST SOMALIA WITH ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE MILITARY NEEDS.

-- FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, OUR CONCERN IS WITH THE FIGHTING AND THE BLOODSHED WHICH IT HAS BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA. WE ARE READY TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH SOMALIA AND WITH PRESIDENT SIAD ANY PROPOSAL HE MIGHT SUGGEST FOR ENDING THE WAR. THIS IS OUR FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN AT THE MOMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MASS, US, SO, (ABDURAHMAN BARRE)  
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